PIOs in Malaysia

†1379. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Indian origin living in Malaysia have to face harsh behaviour there;

(b) the details of the organizations which are engaged in providing relief work to these people over there; and

(c) whether Government of Malaysia also treat these organizations harshly and the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) There is a large community of persons of Indian origin in Malaysia who are citizens of that country and are well integrated in the Malaysian society. The population of Malaysian citizens of Indian origin stands at about 1.9 million, which accounts for about 8% of the total population of Malaysia. Indians are the third largest ethnic group in Malaysia, after Malays and Chinese. Malaysia officially celebrates customs, traditions and religions of its multi-racial population. The people of Indian origin are active in various walks of the Malaysian society, economy and polity, including in the Government and their rights as Malaysian citizens are also derived from the Malaysian constitution.

Malaysian citizens of Indian origin have various political, cultural, social and business organisations to articulate their views, concerns and grievances. They publically express their concerns and grievances from time to time regarding their standing in the country and seek remedial action from the Government of Malaysia.

Indo-Pak meeting of foreign secretaries

†1380. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the meeting of foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan is going to be held;

(b) if so, the agenda of that meeting; and

(c) the action taken by Pakistan so far on assurances given to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Yes. In Prime Minister's meeting with the President of Pakistan on the sidelines of the SCO-BRIC summit in Yekaterinburg on 16th June 2009, it was agreed that the two Foreign Secretaries would discuss the primary issue of terrorism before the leaders of India and Pakistan met on the sidelines of the NAM summit at Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt in mid-July, 2009.

(c) Pakistan has assured us that it would not permit territories under its control to be used for terrorism against India. We have conveyed to Pakistan the full extent of our expectation that the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of Pakistan take strong and effective action to prevent the use of Pakistan's territory for terrorist attacks against India, act against the perpetrators of past attacks and dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan.

Infrastructure along LAC

1381. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved Rs. 5000 crore project for infrastructure improvement along the 4000 km. long Line of Actual Control along Indo-Chinese border along Tibetan Autonomous Region;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the agency to whom the work has been assigned and the progress made so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Funds for Haj Yatra

1382. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is supporting the fund to the Haj Yatra;

(b) if so, the details of such funding according to its population in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the people who have utilized such funding in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to enhance the allocation made to the Haj pilgrim;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(f) if not, by when action would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) The Government is not supporting the fund for the Haj Yatra expect to the extent the subsidy being provided for air travel for the pilgrimage.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Selected Haj Pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh have also benefited from the Government subsidy as above.

(d) No.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.